Remarks

In response to the Examiner's Rejection, claim 1 has been cancelled, and new claim 21, based on a revised claim 1, is now pending.

Claims 4 through 8 and 11 through 20 have been withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected subject matter.

The Rejection

Abstracts of the following publications have been relied upon to reject the Applicants' claim 1:

Foreign Patents

EP693505 Hall, et al. (referred to herein as "Hall")

Publication

"Amination of m- and p-diisopropenylbenzenes by Secondary Amines" by L. V. Asratyan, et al., published in the Armyanskii Khimicheskii Zhurnal (referred to herein as "Asratyan")

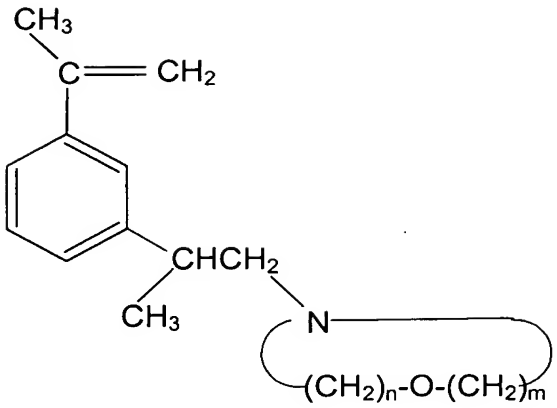
Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 102

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Hall and apparently also by Asratyan. A reconsideration of the rejection of the Applicants' claim 1 is requested in view of the revision of claim 1 as presented by new claim 21 and comments herein.

It is believed that the Examiner's objections under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, have been remedied by the restatement of claim 1 by new claim 21.

The Invention

It is important to appreciate that the Applicants' claimed invention is directed to a functionalized monomer (functionalized styrene) according to the recited formula:



Discussion

The Hall reference recites a preparation of elastomers by reacting organic lithium compounds with a precursor functionalizing agent as a reaction product of recited heterocyclic amine and diisopropenylbenzene derivatives. It appears that three heterocyclic amines are illustrated according to their formula structures, namely (1) a piperidine, (2) a 1H-azepine and (3) a pyrrolidine.

It does not appear that the monomer of the structure of the Applicants' claim 21 is taught or suggested by the Hall publication and that therefore the monomer (compound) of the Applicants' claim 21 is not seen to be anticipated by Hall in the sense of 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b).

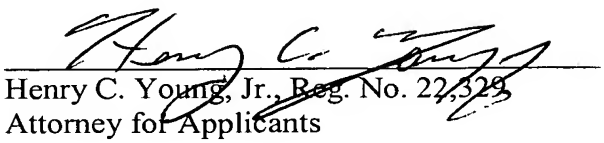
The Asratyan reference recites various secondary amines for animation of diisopropenylbenzenes. It appears that six secondary amines are illustrated according to their formula structures, for example: (1) a piperidine, (2) a morpholine, (3) a piperidine and (4) a morpholine.

It appears that monomer of the structure of the Applicants' claim 21 is not taught or suggested by the Asratyan reference and that therefore the monomer (compound) of the Applicants' claim 21 is not seen to be anticipated by Asratyan in the sense of 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b).

Conclusion

It is contended that the monomer (compound) of Applicants' claim 21 is not anticipated by Hall or by Asratyan in the sense of 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b).

Respectfully submitted,



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